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S/N 09/954,616

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	WOOLFORD ET AL.	Examiner:	F. LAGMAN
Serial No.:	09/954,616	Group Art Unit:	3673
Filed:	SEPTEMBER 17, 2001	Docket No.:	3616.20USC6
Title:	COMPOSITE MASONRY BLOCK		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 5, 2003.

By: *[Signature]*
Name: *Thomas A. Lagan*

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed November 5, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 73 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 40, 42, 66, 70, 72, 74, 77, 78, 82, and 83 as follows:

40. (Amended) The block of claim 30 wherein the depth of the block is the distance between the midpoint of the front face and the midpoint of the rear face, wherein the flange has a rear face which is substantially an extension of the rear face of the block, wherein the engaging surface of the flange intersects the lower surface of the block, wherein the depth of the flange is the distance between the front locking surface and the rear face of the flange, and wherein the ratio of the depth of the block to the depth of the flange is at least about 6:1.

D²

¹³ 42. (Amended) ¹² The block of claim 41 wherein the engaging surface of the flange intersects the lower surface of the block generally along a line that is generally parallel to the substantially planar portion of the rear face of the block.

D³

³⁷ 56. (Amended) ^{35, 3} The retaining wall of claim 54 wherein the vertically-extending cores open to the lower surfaces of the blocks, but do not open to the upper surfaces of the blocks.

D⁴

⁴¹ 70. (Amended) A pre-split concrete unit adapted to be split in a splitting machine to yield at least two concrete blocks, said pre-split concrete unit comprising:

a body comprising a pair of integral face-to-face concrete blocks, the body having a top surface, a bottom surface opposed to said top surface, opposed first and second end surfaces joining said top and bottom surfaces and being generally perpendicular to them, and opposed sides joining said top and bottom surfaces and joining said first and second end surfaces, said opposed sides being generally perpendicular to said top and bottom surfaces and said first and second end surfaces;

said sides comprise portions that converge as they approach said first and second end surfaces, and each side includes a portion that interconnects said converging portions and that extends generally perpendicular to said end surfaces; and

two flanges integrally formed on said body and extending above said top surface, one said flange formed adjacent the first end surface and the other flange formed adjacent the second end surface.

D⁵

⁴³ 72. (Amended) ⁷⁰ The pre-split concrete unit of claim 70, wherein each said flange includes a front locking surface that intersects the top surface generally along a line that is generally parallel to the respective said end surface.

D⁶

⁴⁴ 74. (Amended) ^{41, 11} The pre-split concrete unit of claim 70, wherein said body is symmetrical on each side of an axis that bisects said body and that extends between said sides parallel to said end surfaces.

⁴⁷
 77. (Amended) The pre-split concrete unit of claim ⁴¹70, wherein each said side includes a pair of converging portions that converge towards the other side as the converging portions extend toward said end surfaces.

①

⁴⁸
 78. (Amended) The pre-split concrete unit of claim ⁴¹70, wherein said perpendicular portions of said sides include notches that extend from said top surface to said bottom surface, and that are intersected by the axis.

⁵²
 82. (Amended) A concrete block formed from the pre-split concrete unit according to claim ⁴¹70, comprising:

opposed and generally parallel top and bottom surfaces;

a rear face extending between the top and bottom surfaces and generally perpendicular thereto;

a generally vertical and generally planar front face extending between the top and bottom surfaces;

a pair of side faces joining the front and rear faces and joining the top and bottom surfaces, the side faces being generally perpendicular to the top and bottom surfaces and to the rear face, and the side faces having rearwardly converging portions and portions that extend between the front face and the rearwardly converging portions that are generally perpendicular to the rear face; and

a flange extending below the bottom surface.

②

⁵³
 83. (Amended) A concrete block formed from the pre-split concrete unit according to claim ⁴¹70, comprising:

opposed and generally parallel top and bottom surfaces;

a rear face extending between the top and bottom surfaces and generally perpendicular thereto;

a generally vertical front face extending between the top and bottom surfaces, the front face comprising three facets;

a pair of side faces joining the front and rear faces and joining the top and bottom surfaces, the side faces being generally perpendicular to the top and bottom surfaces and to the



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rear face, and the side faces having rearwardly converging portions that extend between the front face and the rear face; and

a flange extending below the bottom surface.

REMARKS

Claim 73 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 40, 42, 66, 70, 72, 74, 77, 78, 82, and 83 have been amended. Claims 30-72 and 74-83 are pending.

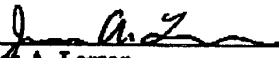
Claims 40, 42, 66, and 72 have been amended to improve their form. Claim 70 has been amended to include the language from claim 73, which has been canceled as a result. Claims 74, 77, 78, 82, and 83 have been amended to depend from claim 70. By amending claim 70, Applicants do not necessarily concede that claim 70 is not patentable. Applicants reserve the right to pursue a claim identical to allowed claim 70 in a later filed application.

Favorable examination is requested. Any questions concerning this paper can be directed to the attention of the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims**

Claim 73 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 40, 42, 66, 70, 72, 74, 77, 78, 82, and 83 have been amended as follows:

40. (Amended) The block of claim 30 wherein the depth of the block is the distance between the midpoint of the front face and the midpoint of the rear face, wherein the flange has a rear face which is substantially an extension of the rear face of the block, wherein the engaging surface of the [said] flange [further including a front locking surface which] intersects the lower surface of the block, wherein the depth of the flange is the distance between the front locking surface and the rear face of the flange, and wherein the ratio of the depth of the block to the depth of the flange is at least about 6:1.

42. (Amended) The block of claim 41 wherein the engaging surface of the flange intersects the lower surface of the block generally along a [the front locking surface of the flange intersects the top surface, and the] line [where the front locking surface intersects the top surface] that is generally parallel to the substantially planar portion of the rear face of the block.

66. (Amended) The retaining wall of claim 64 wherein the vertically-extending cores [extend partially through the blocks from the lower surfaces toward the upper surfaces] open to the lower surfaces of the blocks, but do not open to the upper surfaces of the blocks.

70. (Amended) A pre-split concrete unit adapted to be split in a splitting machine to yield at least two concrete blocks, said pre-split concrete unit comprising:

a body comprising a pair of integral face-to-face concrete blocks, the body having a top surface, a bottom surface opposed to said top surface, opposed first and second end surfaces joining said top and bottom surfaces and being generally perpendicular to them, and opposed sides joining said top and bottom surfaces and joining said first and second end surfaces, said

opposed sides being generally perpendicular to said top and bottom surfaces and said first and second end surfaces;

said sides comprise portions that converge as they approach said first and second end surfaces, and each side includes a portion that interconnects said converging portions and that extends generally perpendicular to said end surfaces; and

two flanges integrally formed on said body and extending above said top surface, one said flange formed adjacent the first end surface and the other flange formed adjacent the second end surface.

72. (Amended) The pre-split concrete unit of claim 70, wherein each said flange includes a front locking surface that intersects the top surface[, and the] generally along a line [where the front locking surface intersects the top surface] that is generally parallel to the respective said end surface.

74. (Amended) The pre-split concrete unit of claim [73] 70, wherein said body is symmetrical on each side of an axis that bisects said body and that extends between said sides parallel to said end surfaces.

77. (Amended) The pre-split concrete unit of claim [73] 70, wherein each said side includes a pair of converging portions that converge towards the other side as the converging portions extend toward said end surfaces.

78. (Amended) The pre-split concrete unit of claim [73] 70, wherein said perpendicular portions of said sides include notches that extend from said top surface to said bottom surface, and that are intersected by the axis.

82. (Amended) A concrete block formed from the pre-split concrete unit according to claim [73] 70, comprising:

opposed and generally parallel top and bottom surfaces;

a rear face extending between the top and bottom surfaces and generally perpendicular thereto;

a generally vertical and generally planar front face extending between the top and bottom surfaces;

a pair of side faces joining the front and rear faces and joining the top and bottom surfaces, the side faces being generally perpendicular to the top and bottom surfaces and to the rear face, and the side faces having rearwardly converging portions and portions that extend between the front face and the rearwardly converging portions that are generally perpendicular to the rear face; and

a flange extending below the bottom surface.

83. (Amended) A concrete block formed from the pre-split concrete unit according to claim [73] 70, comprising:

opposed and generally parallel top and bottom surfaces;

a rear face extending between the top and bottom surfaces and generally perpendicular thereto;

a generally vertical front face extending between the top and bottom surfaces, the front face comprising three facets;

a pair of side faces joining the front and rear faces and joining the top and bottom surfaces, the side faces being generally perpendicular to the top and bottom surfaces and to the rear face, and the side faces having rearwardly converging portions that extend between the front face and the rear face; and

a flange extending below the bottom surface.